

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
JUNE 16, 2020**

ITEM 3

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO ALLOCATE AN ADDITIONAL \$275,198 FROM THE CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ACCOUNT (CAA) FOR THE POST-CAMP FIRE DIXIE ROAD SEDIMENT REDUCTION PROJECT (PROJECT)

DISCUSSION

In the fall of 2018, the Camp Fire burned over 153,000 acres of mixed coniferous forest in the Little Chico Creek, Butte Creek, and Feather River watersheds within Butte County. Forest management, erosion control, and storm-proofing practices are necessary to reduce road-related erosion and sediment delivery sites over seven miles of Dixie Road and Camp Creek Road, which were identified by Pacific Watershed Associates during a post-fire road assessment funded by the Butte County Public Works Department.

Proposed work includes:

- Replacing undersized culverts with culverts that are adequately sized to convey 100-year recurrence interval streamflow and to accommodate increased sediment and debris loading produced from fire-affected drainage basins.
- Treating road surfaces which are currently hydraulically connected to watercourses with effective road surface drainage structures to minimize transport of sediment laden hillslope and road surface runoff.
- Removing and stabilizing fill material to prevent future road fill failures that deliver sediment to watercourses.
- Properly decommissioning and abandoning a section of road, approximately 0.75 miles in length, to reduce sediment impact to the surrounding watershed.

The proposed Project is expected to directly prevent at least 9,525 cubic yards of sediment from being delivered to watercourses within the North Fork Feather River watershed.

Per an approval on October 9, 2019, which was amended on April 13, 2020, the Deputy Director of the Division of Financial Assistance (DFA) has approved \$500,000 in CAA funding for the Project. The Butte County Resource Conservation District (Butte County RCD) has requested a total of \$775,198 in CAA funding. Given that the total request exceeds the \$500,000 threshold for DFA approvals, State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) approval of the additional \$275,198 is required.

The requested allocation is consistent with the purposes of Water Code section 13442, which provides that the State Water Board may approve the payment of moneys from CAA to a public agency to assist in cleaning up a waste or abating the effects of a waste on waters of the state. Consistent with the [CAA Funding Program Guidelines](#), adopted by the State Water Board on December 11, 2018, this Project is categorized as a Tier 1 project that requires immediate action to mitigate a significant threat to the environment or public health and safety.

As the lead agency, Butte County RCD will make the appropriate California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) determination and file CEQA findings with the State Clearinghouse. DFA will make CEQA findings prior to funding implementation work.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board:

1. Approve the allocation of \$275,198 in additional CAA funds, for a total of \$775,198 to the Butte County RCD for the Project. The funds will be available until June 30, 2022. Any unexpended funds shall revert to CAA.

FISCAL IMPACT

CAA cash balances are adequate to cover projected Project expenditures.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board is supportive of the proposed additional funding for the Project.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend that the State Water Board adopt the proposed Resolution.